

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figures 1-5B with the replacement figures shown by the replacement sheets submitted herewith.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on October 5, 2006. Claims 1-36 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 23 being in independent form. By the present amendment, the drawings have been replaced with a replacement sheets showing Figures 1-5B, the specification has been amended, and Claims 1, 23 and 35 have been amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-22. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 32 and 35 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

I. Objection to the Drawings and the Specification

The drawings were objected to because FIG. 2 is too dark. New replacements sheets showing FIGs. 1-5B are submitted herewith. The replacement sheets clearly show the features of all the figures, including FIG. 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to, in particular the Abstract. The Abstract has been amended herein in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action, Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,818,856 issued to Matsushima et al. ("Matsushima et al.").

Applicants have amended independent Claim 23 to better define Applicants' invention and to patentably distinguish over the teachings of Matsushima et al. In particular, Claim 23 has been amended to better define the step of sensing ambient light conditions by incorporating features from objected Claim 32. The sensing ambient light conditions step now recites "sensing ambient light conditions by passing light through an aperture and generating at least one first electrical signal corresponding to the sensing of the ambient light conditions."

Matsushima et al. does not disclose or suggest sensing ambient light conditions by passing light through an aperture as currently recited by Applicants' Claim 23. It is therefore respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendment to Claim 23 and in view of arguments presented above, Claim 23 is patentable over Matsushima et al.

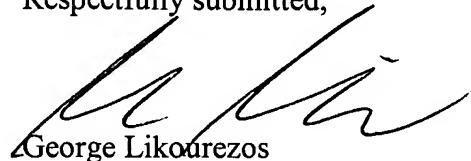
Applicants' Claims 24-31, 33-34 and 36 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 23 and therefore include all the features and limitations of Claim 23. Therefore for at least the same reasons presented above for the patentability of Claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24-31, 33-34 and 36 are also patentable over Matsushima et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 are requested.

III. Conclusions

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all the claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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